6/15/00
To: The Members of ZAMI

Dear Sistahs,

Zuna Institute would like to invite ZAMI to help host our National Black Lesbian Bi-Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled at the Swissotel, April 13th – April 15th 2001 in Atlanta..

The purpose and mission of the conference is:

- to introduce the national black lesbian advocacy organization, Zuna Institute, to the lesbian community,
- to provide a safe space and an ideal opportunity for the Black Lesbian community to collectively determine our needs,
- to discuss how best to satisfy those needs on a national level,
- to promote our strengths and to set a national agenda that will help to overcome our weaknesses.

Zuna is meeting with women and organizations in the Atlanta area to request/encourage participation on a Host Committee. After this committee has been formed, regular scheduled meetings will be held to organize all associated tasks. Zuna would like very much to include the women of ZAMI in the local planning and support of this conference.

The Host Committee will be responsible for securing local vendors, workshop candidates, community, political and sponsorship support. They will also be responsible for community housing and local media coverage. A welcome committee will also be formed from within the host committee. All organizations participating on the host committee will also be asked to do a mailing to their constituency group. Registration fees to the conference will be waived for all active members of the host committee, and financial donations will be made to organizations that participate on the host committee.

We feel that the time is right for such a national gathering. Zuna has mounted an aggressive national marketing campaign to the black lesbian community utilizing Black Pride events, and various media outlets, (both electronic and print). We are targeting all women who identify as black lesbians. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to all regardless of age or ones present level of community involvement. We intend to provide not only space for workshops and political discourse, but to also provide space and opportunity for health improvement and risk reduction programs and for political, regional, social, spiritual, and economic networking.

Wont you please join us as we attempt to unlock the beauty, grace, creativity and power that exists within us all as we move forward to have our voices heard and our power felt in developing a more visible and viable place for all black lesbians in today's society.

If we can provide additional information please don't hesitate to contact Sha' Mendon at 770-924-8012 (home), or 770-633-1474 (mobile). You can also email her at trueambition@aol.com, or visit our website at Zunainstitute.org.

I am looking forward to working with you.

Yours in the struggle,

Sha' Mendon
Zuna Institute
Board Member